



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 03/08/2006

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/8/06

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan	Fey	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

MINUTES of 3/8/06 meeting were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

BUD 5 COMPTROLLER & DATA PROCESSING: Finances SubCom (Carman), using a handout, recommended a few changes & provided a handout. He will draft a letter for Tosti to the BOS concerning a step increase for the comptroller. Several software expenses are controlled by the Manager so Lewis recommended they be transferred to the Manager's budget. VOTED to transfer WEB site support services, \$17,250 to the Manager's budget 13-3. VOTED to appropriate \$832,111 w/o the step increase unless the BOS authorizes one in which case it will be incorporated w/o further vote. Unanimous.

DART 44 MINUTEMAN TECH (Hearing held 3/6). VOTED \$2,893,035, less than an assessment based on the district agreement. Unanimous.

BUD 22-23 PENSIONS: Finances SubCom (Carman) reported that non-contrib pensions are now estimated to cost \$219,590.

VOTED \$6,276,863 contrib, \$219,590 non-contrib. Unanimous.

DART 59 RETIREE HEALTH CARE TRUST FUND, originally voted on 2/6 was reconsidered do to change in non-contrib pensions. VOTED \$280,410. Unanimous. A proposal to use some of the Ottoson reimbursement to increase this appropriation was discussed but thought to be premature.

MSCHEDULE A proposal to post planned increases on the FinCom web site was discussed but considered to be unwise since this info is provided to and decided by Town Meeting, a forum available to all.

BUD 6 TREASURER: Finances SubCom (Dunn), using a handout, recommended a few changes. After some discussion of the salary appropriate to a newly elected treasurer, the FinCom decided to make no change based partly on studies done in the past that showed Arlington pays less than other towns. VOTED \$542303. Unanimous.

BUD 7 POSTAGE: Finances SubCom (Dunn), using a handout, recommended an increase in town postage. VOTED \$131,569. Unanimous.

BUD 12 PARKING: Finances SubCom (Dunn) recommended the budget as printed. He said the total income from stickers, meters & fines was \$495,098. VOTED \$90,766. Unanimous.

DART 42 CAPITAL BUDGET (Hearing held 3/6). VOTED \$4,917,564 for non-exempt capital expenditures distributed as detailed in CPC chart 19 and \$3,413,808 for exempt capital expenditures. Unanimous.

PIERCE FIELD: The possible exposure of the town to a \$6m overrun was discussed. Though a decision by arbitration, if the Town is required to pay, the Town may be able to borrow the funds. Kneeland to invite Town Counsel to explain how the overrun happened & how the arbitration case is going at an executive session on 3/22.

DART 32 FIRE STATION RENEWAL PLAN: Tabled until the BOS acts.

BUD 4 PERSONNEL: Personnel SubCom (O'Neill) recommended the budget as printed. VOTED \$172,573. Unanimous.

DART 40 RECLASSIFICATION: Personnel SubCom (O'Neill), using a draft copy of the recommended vote, reviewed 4 title changes and 3 reclassifications (of the 8 requested). VOTED \$5726. Unanimous.

DART 18 SYMMES PERMIT FEES: Kneeland to schedule a hearing w/ the sponsors on 3/20.

DART 21 & 22 are thought to be moves to restrict benefits for elected officials, not to enhance them as recent rumor would have it.

BUD 2 BOS: Gen Govt SubCom (DuBois) recommended the budget as printed after explaining the office supplies line item.

VOTED \$193,199 for BOS and \$50,000 for auditing. 15-0-1.

BUD 10 TOWN CLERK: Gen Govt SubCom (DuBois) reviewed reductions in the requested expense increases which she negotiated. VOTED \$220,914. 15-1.

COMMITTEE: School Committee & ART 18 on 3/20. Town Manager, Town Counsel, ART 24 on 3/22. Jones is working on budgets. Kneeland is working on report. The House budget bill is due out of committee on 4/12. May require budget adjustments.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: 78,590.66 (163,590.66)

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/9/06 Revised 3/20/06cccp

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site